

History of Seattle City Light's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program

1977 – Seattle City Light starts energy conservation programs. An added benefit is reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. Since 1977, City Light conservation programs have saved 9.9 million megawatt-hours of electricity.

1992 – The Seattle City Council makes climate change an environmental priority.

1995 – Seattle City Light joined the Climate Challenge, a U.S. Department of Energy voluntary program reporting on the City's progress reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

2000 – The City of Seattle's passes the Earth Day Resolution directing Seattle City Light to meet load growth with conservation and renewables, and to mitigate for greenhouse-gas emissions from any fossil fuel use. It also set a long-term goal of "Net Zero" greenhouse-gas emissions.

2001 – Voluntary Seattle Green Power program begins allowing customers to pay an amount in excess of their monthly power bill to support local renewable energy efforts.

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Strategy Resolution was passed, setting standards for calculating greenhouse-gas emissions and mitigation projects.

2002 – City Light began receiving energy from the Stateline Wind Project in January 2002. As a result of this contract, we now have 175 megawatts of wind-generating capacity.

2003 – First greenhouse-gas offset contract signed with Climate Trust.

2004 – Biodiesel program starts. City Light funds the use of biodiesel in several local fleets – including buses, garbage trucks and City vehicles – that use a blend of biodiesel and petroleum diesel.

2005 – City of Seattle wins "2005 City Livability Award," from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' Climate Protection Agreement receives unanimous support at U.S. Mayors annual meeting in Chicago.

Seattle City Council approves City Light's Green Up program, allowing customers to "Green Up" a percentage of their energy use.

Seattle City Light joined Port of Seattle, Princess Cruise Lines, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency to celebrate providing shore power to the Diamond Princess cruise ship. The utility is contracting to purchase offsets equivalent 2000 tons of CO₂ emissions, resulting from the switch to electric power from diesel fuel. The switch also results in a reduction of air pollutants in Seattle.

City Light signs a contract to purchase 300,000 greenhouse-gas emissions offsets from Du Pont Fluorchemicals of Wilmington, Del., reaching the long-term goal of "Net Zero" greenhouse-gas emissions.